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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, After 34 years in law enforcement, Bethalto Chief of Police William "Billy Bones" Hays retired on May 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Chief Hays earned the nickname "Billy Bones" when he began working on the department in 1968; as a rookie he stood 6 feet tall and weighed 135 pounds; and

WHEREAS, Chief Hays retired in 1989 with the rank of sergeant following 21 years of service; he then headed west with his wife, Elsie, and worked as a security guard in Las Vegas at the casino, Circus Circus; he returned to the department in November of 1997, when he was offered the job as deputy police chief by Mayor Steve Bryant; and

WHEREAS, His duties as second-in-command included being supervisor of the department's four sergeants and nine patrol officers before he replaced Chief Tony Sammis following his retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, As an officer and a chief, Mr. Hays has served the community with pride and has been a positive influence on the department; he taught his employees good work ethics as well as good moral values; and

WHEREAS, Chief Hays was a past member and past president of the board of directors of the Bethalto Boys and Girls Club, and is a member of the Madison County Police Association, a member of the Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association, and a member of the Illinois Police Chief's Association; and

WHEREAS, He is father to one grown son, Todd, who followed in his footsteps, working as a police officer in Troy; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate Bethalto Police Chief William "Billy Bones"
4 Hays on the occasion of his retirement; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to him as an expression of our respect and esteem and
7 with best wishes for a relaxing retirement.